Oneida County Technology Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 20, 2013   9:30 a.m.
Oneida County Courthouse, Committee Room #2
1 S. Oneida Avenue
Rhinelander, WI 54501

Committee Members present: Dave Hintz/Committee Chairman and County Board Supervisor, Bob Martini/County Board Supervisor, Billy Fried/County Board Supervisor, Don Sidlowski/Three Lakes Town Chairman, Dan Hess/Lieutenant – Oneida County Sheriff's Department

Committee Advisors present: Bart Lamers/One Prospect, Tim Brown/UW-Extension Community, Natural Resource & Economic Development Agent, Joe Hegge/Grow North Regional Economic Development Corporation, Lynn Grube/Oneida County Information Technology Systems Director

Others present: Marcus Nesemann/Northwoods River News, Ted Cushing/County Board Chairman

Call the meeting to order:
Hintz called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

Approve meeting agenda with order of items at discretion of Chairman:
Motion by Martini to approve today's agenda. Second by Fried. All members present voting 'Aye'. Motion carried.

Approve minutes of February 14, 2013 meeting:
Motion by Martini to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2013 meeting. Second by Hess. All members present voting 'Aye'. Motion carried.

Update on town survey project:
Fried reports speaking with Sugar Camp town chair Scott Holewinski; Holewinski states two Sugar Camp residents have approached him regarding improving broadband service in the area and they will be looking into this further. Fried has also spoken with Grube regarding utilizing SurveyMonkey.com to complete this project. Committee discussed results of completed surveys from the town of Crescent. Hege states the Minocqua survey responses are being compiled and he is hoping to have the results by next week. Hege reports he is still working with Sidlowski on an eight county demand survey through the Public Service Commission (which includes Oneida County).

Don Sidlowski joined meeting.

Grube provided handout and survey results compiled so far in Oneida County. Discussion held regarding concerns that sending survey's in tax bills will not reach non-home owning residents. Grube states survey results show the most used internet providers in Oneida County are Charter, Frontier, Verizon and AT&T respectively. Grube summarized the rest of the results in the handout including information on broadband speed and satisfaction. Sidlowski discussed nationwide broadband speed averages, that the speeds are lower then preferred and where they would like the speeds to be.

Tim Brown joined the meeting.

Update on town survey project (continued):
In depth discussion held on local speeds and what is needed. Discussion on Grow North minimum standards and goals for broadband speeds for the area. Hintz suggests adopting the federal standard speed of "4 down 1 up" as our county goal to broadband. Motion by Martini for the Technology Committee to adopt the federal standard as an interim standard with the understanding that the committee would revisit topic on a regular basis for revision, the information be included in the minutes and that we recommend to the County Board an adoption of the standard after some additional consultation that the committee might need. Second by Sidlowski.

Dan Hess excused from meeting.

Further discussion of motion on table. Motion then amended to include adopting the Grow North key initiatives goals as:

        Goal 1: Minimum broadband coverage throughout the region of 3-5 MB by 2014
        Goal 2: Minimum broadband coverage throughout the region of 7-10 MB by 2016
        Goal 3: Minimum broadband coverage throughout the region of 20 MB by 2020

Further discussion held. Motion then withdrawn. Committee agrees to give more thought on the motion and set at a future date.

Hege suggests aggregating the responses from the three townships. Hintz agrees and directs Grube to take care of compiling this data.

Fried states Sidlowski and him are on the Comprehensive Planning Oversight Committee and technology development is not listed as one of the nine items of focus. Having technology is not required as one of the focus points of the committee but none the less, Fried feels it should be an item that is addressed.

County Board training session:
Several members of the committee will be attending the Treehaven Summit tomorrow and are hoping to gain knowledge that they can apply to the upcoming County Board training session.

Hintz feels the County Board training session is very important, and should summarize what the committee has been doing and what direction the committee would like to take. Hintz states he has spoken with County Board Chairman Ted Cushing about setting a special training session separate from a regular County Board meeting; Cushing is in agreement with this suggestion. Hintz discussed getting Oneida County Economic Development to possibly take over technology initiative. Brown led an in-depth discussion on the planning of the County Board training session and provided a handout outlining the plan. Sidlowski suggested they discuss with the County Board that the county can not legally provide internet service directly to the public; feels many people are not aware of this law. Hintz suggests late May or early June for the County Board training session meeting.

Ted Cushing entered meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Brief discussion on Treehaven Summit scheduled for tomorrow. Cushing agreeable to special County Board meeting to discuss Technology Committee and voiced the importance of the Technology Committee. Cushing prefers the special meeting in May rather then April.

Ted Cushing left meeting at 10:54 a.m.

Technology Committee action plan:
Discussion held on action plan. Hintz states by next meeting, He wants to have a date scheduled for the County Board training meeting and have a firm draft agenda for that meeting.

Potential county government technology improvements:
Hintz asks Grube to provide some information at County Board training session regarding suggestions on improvements to our county's government technology.

Public comments:
None

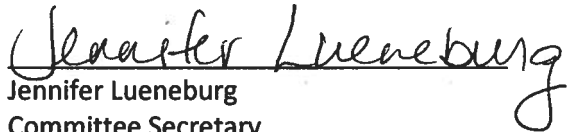**Next meeting date:**
To be announced.

Future agenda topics:
 - County Board training session
 - Update on town survey

Adjournment:
Motion by Sidlowski to adjourn meeting. Second by Martini. All members present voting 'Aye'. Motion carried. Adjourn at 11:01 a.m.

Dave Hintz
Committee Chair

Jennifer Lueneburg
Committee Secretary